

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 18, 21 and 25 are amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 18, 21 and 25 are amended to clarify the claimed features.

The indication in the Office Action that claim 22 recites allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

For the following reasons, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. REPLY TO REJECTIONS

A. 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

On page 2, item 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 18, 21 and 25 are amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 3, item 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-21 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,032,480 to Kim (hereinafter “the ‘480 patent”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,634,181 to Kim et al. (hereinafter “the ‘181 patent”), and U.S. Patent No. 4,688,393 to Linstromberg et al. (hereinafter “the ‘393 patent”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The '480 patent discloses a cool air duct 2 which is formed by a duct member 3. The duct member 3 has a plurality of discharge ports 3a. The '480 patent also discloses an opening/closing member 6 having a plurality of air holes 5. The air holes 5 correspond to the cool air discharge ports 3a (Figures 2-4 of the '480 patent). The '480 patent discloses that the cool air discharge ports 3a are all opened simultaneously when the opening/closing member 6 is moved up and are all closed simultaneously when the opening/closing member 6 is moved down (col. 3, lines 29-33).

The '181 patent discloses a refrigerator main body 6 having a rear discharge duct 34 containing a plurality of rear discharge holes 46, a right discharge duct 36 having a plurality of right discharge holes 50, and a left discharge duct 38 having a plurality of left discharge holes 54 (Figure 4 of the '181 patent). The '181 patent discloses open and shut units 60, for example (Figure 7), which blocks cool air from the rear discharge duct 34, and only supplies cooling air to the right and left discharge ducts 36 and 38 (col. 9, lines 7-33). The '181 patent does not disclose any mechanism for selecting which of the discharge holes in the discharge ducts 34, 36 and 38 are opened and closed.

The '393 patent discloses a side by side refrigerator 10 having a control assembly 40 for passing cool air between a frozen food compartment 14 and a fresh food cooling compartment 16. The control assembly 40 has a baffle section 44B with an opening 46, and a baffle plate 32B having a series of slots or openings 62B corresponding to slots 62A on a baffle plate 32A (Figure 3, col. 4, lines 22-45, for example). The baffle plate 32A is moved so that when the opening 62A

of the baffle plate 32A registers with the opening 62B in the baffle plate 32B, the chilled air flows from the frozen food compartment 14 into the fresh food cooling compartment 16 (col. 4, lines 32-45). That is, at any given point in time, either all or none of the openings 62B allow cool air to flow.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied references disclose selectively opening and closing a selection of the discharge ports to control a direction at which cool air is discharged into the refrigerating chamber, as called for in independent claims 1 and 10. The references also fail to disclose or suggest a direction control plate configured to selectively open and close a selection of the discharge ports to selectively direct cool air to different portions of the refrigerating chamber, as recited in independent claim 18. Instead, all of the cited references disclose closing and opening all of the discharge port at once. Consequently, claims 1, 10 and 18 are patentable over the applied references and their combination.

Claims 2-9, 21 and 24, which depend from claim 1, claims 11-17 and 25, which depend from claim 10, and claims 19 and 20, which depend from claim 18, are likewise patentable over the applied references and their combination for at least the reasons discussed above and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 4, item 6 of the Office Action, claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the '480 patent, in view of the '181 patent and the '393 patent, and further in view U.S. Patent No. 5,884,496 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "the '496 patent"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The '496 patent discloses a refrigerator having a refrigerator compartment trisected into a top a, intermediate b, and a lower section c by shelves. For each sections a, b, c, are four cool air outlets 112 and a temperature sensor 113. As shown in Figure 9, behind the duct cover 111 is located a rotating housing 114 having different size cool air openings 115a, 115b. The housing 114 is located so that either the big opening 115a or a small opening 115b is aligned with one of the three cool air outlets 112 for each sections a, b, c. The sections having the large opening 115a will be cooled more rapidly due to the increased flow of cool air while the sections having the small opening 115b will be cooled more slowly due to the decreased flow of cool air. However, at any given time, all of the cool air outlets 115a and 115b are maintained open.

In view of the '496 patent's disclosure, it fails to overcome the deficiencies in the '480, '181, and the '393 patents noted above. Consequently, claim 23 is patentable over the applied references and their combination on the basis of its dependency on claim 1, and for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

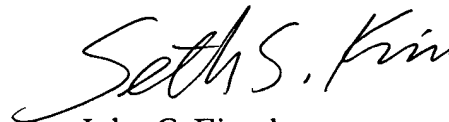
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact **Seth S. Kim**, at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. 10/724,768
Reply to Office Action of January 11, 2005

Docket No. P-0619

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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